

## FREE COTTON BAGGING.

### THE SENATE STRIKES IT FROM THE DUTIABLE LIST.

The Vote a Close one and Carried by the Silver Republicans and Populists.—The Senate also Rep.—Two Straight Republicans Support this Proposition.—The Senate Reaches the Wool Schedule.

Washington, June 19.—In the senate today the flax schedule of the tariff bill was taken up with little delay, the pending question being on Senator Allison's motion to increase the rate on thread, twine, etc., made of flax, hemp or ramie.

Senator Vest, of Missouri, and Senator Jones, of Arkansas, contested the proposed change, arguing that the rates were excessive.

Senator Allison's amendment was agreed to—29 to 19. Senator McEnery voting with the republicans.

Senator Allison moved to increase the rates on yarns, making the rate 7 cents instead of 6 cents a pound on single yarns in the gray, not finer than eight lea.

Senator Gray called for an explanation of the increase. He said it would not do for the republicans to sit still without saying a word, simply because they had the necessary majority.

Senator Sewall said the increase had been decided upon to compensate for the increase in the rate on the raw material demanded by the "western people."

"Very well," said Senator Gray, "that is more light than we have heretofore had. Go on."

"That's enough," interjected two or three republican senators.

In conclusion, Senator Gray made an argument for free raw material, the necessity of which, he said, was illustrated by the action of the finance committee in this case of linen thread.

The amendments were agreed to without division.

The committee amendments to tax gill netting were agreed to.

Senator Vest took exception to the increase on floor matting, saying the duties as proposed would range from 40 per cent to 105, whereas they had heretofore been free.

Senator Pettigrew said the committee amendments were evidently aimed at the Japanese matting which could not be produced here. The purpose, therefore, evidently was to force the patronage of the American linen trust for the manufacture of an inferior and different article. This was not an infant industry. The rates were prohibitive and the entire article affected was one in which the poorer classes were especially interested.

He supported Senator Vest's amendment, which would strike out the Japanese matting, and the silver republicans, voted with the democrats on this motion.

The result created a slight stir in the chamber as it was the first substantial triumph of the opposition to the tariff bill. The effect is to restore floor matting, manufactured from straw or other vegetable substance to the free list. These include the Japanese, Chinese and Indian matting.

An attempt was made to free oil cloth as well, but was lost.

The amendments to the paragraphs on cuffs, collars and shirts were received without opposition.

Paragraphs 341 (tube grain bags and burlaps) and 342 (bagging for cotton, gunny-cloth, etc.) were considered together and aroused some discussion which was based on the motion by Senator Pettigrew to strike out the duty on cotton burlap.

Senator White contended that the proposed duty on jute bags would cost the farmers of the Pacific coast \$500,000 per annum. He asserted that the duty on wheat was a delusion and that in putting these bags on the free list, an opportunity was afforded to do the farmer a substantial service.

Senator Butler, of North Carolina, said the additional cost to the southern states on guano on account of this duty would be \$35,000 a year.

Senator Pettigrew sought to bring the debate back to the question of bags, urging the senate to give this modicum of justice to the farmers.

The motion to strike out the two paragraphs in regard to burlaps and cloth for cotton bagging was carried 31 to 28. The effect of the vote is to leave these articles on the free list. The silver republicans and populist who were present all voted with the democrats, but no straight republicans did so.

Going back, Senator Jones, of Arkansas, moved to strike out paragraph 339 (plain woven fabrics of single jute yarns). This motion also prevailed—29 to 23.

The rate on handkerchiefs was fixed at 40 per cent, ad valorem instead of 55. The hemp schedule was agreed to, which brought the senate to the wool schedule and rather than attack this so late in the day, the senate held a short executive session and then adjourned.

### New West Point Cadets.

West Point, N. Y., June 19.—Of the 103 candidates who applied for admission to the military academy only thirty-eight have successfully passed the examinations. Among them are: John A. Cleveland, Alabama; Marshal H. Hurt, Alabama; Clarence H. Knight, Florida; William P. Platt, North Carolina; Joseph H. Stannard, South Carolina. Among those who were examined and qualified last March, these were sworn in today: C. F. Cox, Virginia; William C. Harle, Florida; Richard H. Jordan, Virginia; Gustav Keppman, Alabama; George Mason Lee, Virginia; Walter H. Lee, North Carolina; Allan Sherrill, North Carolina; Clarence O. Shipp, Georgia; Walter H. Smith, Georgia; Eugene B. West, Virginia.

## COTTON GROWERS' CONVENTION.

Delegates Appointed by the Governor.—T. C. Bailey Attacks Colonel Meserve for Having Scruples About the Spoils System (Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., June 19.—The governor appoints as delegates to the cotton growers' convention at Galveston, August 22nd, Isaac A. Suggs, of Greenville; John Graham, of Ridgeway; John D. Currie, of Pike; and J. D. McLeod, J. L. Ramsey, of Raleigh; John S. Cunningham, of Cunninghamham; J. J. Renfow, of Matthews; A. F. Hileman, of Concord; C. G. Bailey, of Advance; J. M. Mewborne, of Raleigh.

Last evening's storm damaged some buildings and crops in the northern and eastern sections of Wake.

Richard Shacklee, an operative in the cotton mill here, who wanted to kill his youngest son, was put in the asylum today. All his other children are in the Oxford orphan asylum.

Chairman C. T. Bailey, of the trustees of the blind institution, publishes a letter attacking Colonel Meserve for resigning and says the policy of his associates was not intended to please him or any one else in particular. Bailey says the policy of the present board is to turn out every democrat in office where a competent republican or populist can be found to fill the place; that "this is the spoils system and is the system to which we are going to adhere."

### Excitement Over Mica Mining.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., June 19.—State Labor Commissioner Hamrick returned today from his second tour of inspection of mills and mines. He visited fifty mills in Alexander, Rowan, Cabarrus, Iredell, Guilford, Davidson, Union, Burke and McDowell counties. He has now visited 100 mills. He finds that in the counties above named there are no new mills under construction, but there is a large increase in the number of spindles. He finds the greatest excitement ever known regarding mica mining, this being due to the proposed tariff duty. This interest is very great in Cleveland, Burke, McDowell and Buncombe. One man in Cleveland is moving his dwelling, very fine mica having been found under it. No mica is now being mined, but people are waiting for the duty to be imposed. There are plans to renew tin mining at Kings mountain. Not much gold mining is being done, save in a few sections. In McDowell some new shafts are being sunk.

### The Fremont Stakes.

New York, June 19.—The Gravesend meeting ended today in fine style, for the crowd numbered nearly 10,000 and the racing was good. The big event on the card was the Fremont stakes of \$10,000 for 2-year-olds. The field, however, was small. Previous was scratched because he had shown lameness in the dash out of the chute. Bowlingbrook was beaten by a head; Connoisseur, 2 to 1, second; The Dipper, 10 to 1, third; Prince Lee, 10 to 1, fourth; 5 to 2 and 7 to 5, third, Time, 1:30.

Second Race—High weight handicap, one mile. Allover, 10 to 1 and 4 to 1, won by a head; Bowlingbrook, 6 to 1 and 2 to 1, second; Imperator, 3 to 1 and 1 to 1, third, Time, 1:44.

Third Race—Fremont stakes, \$10,000, six furlongs; Hand Ball, 4 to 1 and 2 to 1, won by a head; Imperator, 3 to 1 and 1 to 1, second; Bowlingbrook, 6 to 1 and 2 to 1, third, Time, 1:15.

Fourth Race—Boutwell handicap, one mile and a furlong; Don De Oro, 11 to 5 and 4 to 5, won by three-fourths of a length; Butha, 13 to 5 and 4 to 5, second; Imperator, 10 to 1 and 3 to 1, third, Time, 1:57.

Fifth Race—Selling, six furlongs; St. Han, 10 to 1, won by a head; Imperator, 10 to 1 and 4 to 1, second; Klepper, 10 to 1 and 4 to 1, third; Mahoney, 30 to 1 and 10 to 1, fourth, Time, 1:36.

Sixth Race—One mile and one-sixteenth, selling; Ben Eder, 7 to 10 and won by a neck; Brisk, 5 to 1 and 8 to 5, second by four lengths; Domitor, 8 to 1 and 2 to 1, third, Time, 1:30.

### Airship for Naval Vessels.

Berlin, June 19.—Naval experts at Kiel are now testing the practical uses of dragon-shaped air ships, which may be put on board vessels for use during naval engagements and in reconnoitering.

Some of the balloons rose 5,000 feet, remaining fastened to the deck of torpedo boats which were steaming eighteen knots an hour, enabling the balloonists to make valuable observations of the stations of vessels at a great distance. The observations made by the balloons were communicated by telephone from the balloons to persons on the decks of vessels below, enabling them to change the course of the latter accordingly. The whole series of experiments occupied a fortnight and was eminently successful.

### The L. A. W. Meet.

Kansas City, June 19.—Fast time marked the League of American Wheelmen national circuit races at Fairmount park this afternoon. Summaries:

Half mile, open professional—Arthur Gardner, Chicago, won; L. D. Cabanne, St. Louis, second; A. C. Mertens, St. Paul, third, Time 1:06.

One mile open professional (paced)—Gardner won; Mertens, second; F. H. McCall, Omaha, third, Time 2:07 2-5. (Track record).

Two mile handicap—J. H. Inman, Golden City, Mo., 170, won; George Morden, Omaha, 130, second; Jack Corns, St. Louis, 100, third, Time 4:32 2-5.

### Mills to Run on Short Time.

Lowell, Mass., June 19.—The Massachusetts, Merrimack and Booth cotton mills each posted a notice today to the effect that beginning next Saturday, the mills will be closed for two weeks and that when work is resumed, it will be only on half time. The Towell Machine Company will also close for one week and afterwards run on short time. This will affect in all about 2,500 persons.

## THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE

### TO BE THE GREATEST PAGEANT EVER SEEN IN ENGLAND.

Representatives Present From Every Nation of the World.—Every Section of the East British Empire Represented Through Distinctive Citizenship—Programme of Proceedings for Each Day of the Week—All Arrangements Completed.

London, June 19.—Never in the history of England has London so strikingly shown tonight the heart of the world as it does tonight—the eve of the jubilee. At all times the busiest hive of the human race, tonight London is crowded to its innermost door by a stupendous gathering of strangers representing nearly every race under the sun and nearly every country found upon the map. The common object of this crowd—participation in the greatest historical pageant yet witnessed in the history of the British empire—gives tone and complexion to every minute of time, to every thought and action. There is nothing in men's minds at this hour, from the highest prince in the palaces to the lowest sneak thief in the streets, but the jubilee.

It is impossible to pass along any of the crowded thoroughfares without remarking the two predominant notes of the occasion, the world's desire to honor Queen Victoria and the proud wish of her subjects in doing so to impressively demonstrate the strength and vastness of her empire. The streets, hotels and stately mansions of London are crowded with the great who have already come to honor the queen, while barracks and bivouacs in and around the metropolis are thronged with soldiers in every uniform known to British administration—from the head-hunting Dyaks of the Borneo police, the mounted men of Australia, India and Africa, to the West India Zaptichs from Cyprus, to the stalwart representatives of military governments from Ladak, the "Snows." Suggestively, it is a rare kaleidoscopic picture of races, men and creeds, a vivid panorama of the march of the world's progress. The air is alive with expectancy, thousands upon thousands of flags and banners float in the evening breeze, the decorations which have easily cost 1,000,000 of English money are in place, myriads of lights are glowing or stand ready for their flame—London smiles in self-content.

### THE FOREIGN ENVOYS.

The list of notabilities, guests of the queen, who are gathered in London tonight to offer congratulations from the nations of the world, is long and imposing. It includes, on behalf of the United States, Mr. Whitelaw Reid, proprietor of The New York Herald, and his wife, Mrs. Reid. A. Miles to represent the army and Rear Admiral J. N. Miller the navy, with their aides. The sister republic, France, has sent an extraordinary mission, headed by General Davoust, grand chancellor of the Legion of Honor and grandnephew of Napoleon's famous general, Marshal Davoust. Two generals of division accompany the marshal, one of whom especially represents President Faure, together with a staff of eight general officers. Integral portions of the Kaiser's empire are represented by Duke Albert of Württemberg, Prince Rupprecht, a grandson of the prince regent and a lineal descendant of the Stuart dynasty; Prince Frederick Augustus, Duke of Saxony; the Duke of Mecklenburg, Prince of Götting, accompanied by the hereditary prince and Princess Beatrice. The Austro-Hungarian empire is represented in the person of the Archduke Ferdinand, heir presumptive to the throne. He is accompanied by a princely entourage, and his consort, the Archduchess Stephanie, the prince and princess of Naples and a suite of ten—all of whom are tonight at Chesterfield house—that is, the Hotel Hamilton, see Monsignor. Turning to the minor powers and countries further afield, Sweden and Norway are represented by Prince Carl, a prince of the royal house, and an interesting representative in tall Prussian uniform, Prince Gustav of Rumania appears in the person of his ruler, Prince Ferdinand, accompanied by his consort, the Princess Marie, and his suite; Bulgaria its prince and princess. From the Iberian peninsula there has arrived H. R. H. the duke of Oporto, brother of King Charles, and from Spain the duke of Sotomayor, Switzerland's sympathy in the rejoicing is shown too by M. Boucard, a former president of the republic.

The Orient, loving a pageant as Orientals do, contributes bountifully to the brilliancy of the occasion in ways whose every appearance is a delight to the thronging crowds.

Countries to the south of the United States do not wait the list to be titled, but they are eminently represented.

Finally, though no longer a temporal sovereign, Leo XIII. has sent to represent the papacy, the cardinal of the Holy See, Cardinal Simeone, titular archbishop of Corinth and canon of St. Mary Majoris.

### THE EMPIRE'S ENVOYS.

Turning from those tonight in London who have come to testify the homage of the world beyond the British boundary line to those who represent that empire within them the array of envoys is no less imposing, no less picturesque, while far more pregnant with meaning to the people in the street—for they typify the vastness and variety of the empire to which they belong. In the first place, in this group stands the Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, premier of the Dominion, who, with Mrs. Laurier and the other colonial premiers are guests of her majesty at the Hotel Cecil, before the doors of which—as at all hotels and houses where royal guests are domiciled—soldiers of the queen are posted on sentry duty.

### THE INDIAN ENVOYS.

Hardly less important, and certainly more picturesque, are the envoys from India, princes of feudatory states, men of strange titles, of dark-skinned, immutable faces, clad in costumes of color and gold ever emblematic of the East. Just who and what they are is hardly known outside the India office, but they are all representative.

### HER MAJESTY.

The queen is resting quietly tonight at Windsor, in excellent health and spirits, considering the work of the day. She is settling and debating a whole dictionary of details connected with the arduous historical work to come. For no arrangement, however trifling, is to be made without royal sanction and consideration. Not merely the sorting and disposition of innumerable guests for royal functions, hours of coming and going, bestowal of honors and orders and the like, but the endless details regarding reception of addresses, memorials and gifts. The addresses that are to be presented by the home secretary are from every conceivable body in every imaginable part of the empire.

### THE QUEEN'S PROGRAMME.

The jubilee programme to which her majesty has given her consent covers the

seven days beginning tomorrow—though all envoys are guests of the queen until Monday, June 28th. The programme begins appropriately on tomorrow—Ascension day—the sixtieth anniversary of that far June morning when day broke the archbishop of Canterbury and the lord chamberlain announced to the hastily awakened princess that during the silent watches of the night the phantom of majesty had fallen upon her! The programme is as follows:

Sunday, June 20—Ascension Day morning.—The queen, with the more immediate members of the royal family, attend a solemn thanksgiving service at Frognor. Official service for the lords and commons at St. Margaret's, Westminster. Official celebration at St. Paul's cathedral for her majesty's judges, the lord mayor and corporation of London. Special Ascension day service in every Church of England edifice throughout the world.

Monday, June 21—Her majesty arrives at Buckingham palace at 12:30 p. m. Afternoon.—The queen receives her imperial and royal guests, Evening—Royal full dress banquet at Buckingham palace followed by reception of the diplomatic corps.

Tuesday, June 22—Queen's day. Morning.—The procession to St. Paul's. Evening.—Her majesty roasts; second royal banquet, Buckingham palace, the prince of Wales presiding, followed by a state concert. Illumination of London and the empire. During the day celebrations all over the world.

Wednesday, June 23—Morning.—The queen receives addresses from the houses of parliament. Afternoon.—The queen attends the garden party at Buckingham palace, for which 6,000 invitations have been issued. Evening.—The queen attends a royal banquet at the palace; home and foreign royalties attend Lady Salisbury's ball at the forenoon.

Thursday, June 24—Morning.—In semi-state the queen and court go to Windsor; the queen receives the lords and commons through Eton is received by the college boys. Evening—Banquet at Windsor castle; the queen reviews a torchlight procession of Eton boys.

Friday, June 25—Afternoon.—The queen, with the prince of Wales as inspecting officer, reviews the fire brigades of England. Evening—State banquet at St. George's hall at which all imperial and royal guests will be present.

Saturday, June 26—Afternoon.—The prince of Wales, on behalf of the queen, reviews the fleet at Spithead. Evening—Illumination of the fleet.

Questions are agitating London. The prospective weather on jubilee days, the procession day, Tuesday, especially, and how to get to the seats from which to watch the procession. The weather, recently has been boisterous, but the latest reports show that the disturbance is passing away eastward. A storm on Tuesday night would amount to a calamity and would spoil the entire show. The majority of the immense stands along the route are quite uncovered. The transport of the royal party is a serious question. There is an absolute corner in all kinds of vehicles.

The early morning shoals of royal personages and foreign special missions have been pouring into London, this being the date from which they are the guests of the government.

The situation is complicated by a furious gale in the channel, which is upsetting all calculations. Ex-Emperor Frederick of Prussia, who is staying at the Hotel Victoria and Albert from Flushing, was obliged to put back. Each royal party came in a special boat and on a special train.

Americans generally are to the fore in the jubilee. Mrs. John W. Mackay will be present, accompanied by her daughter, being in mourning, but her sister, Countess Telford, and one of the officers of the pope's guard, who accompanies the papal suite, are staying with Mrs. Mackay at her residence on Carlton House terrace.

William W. Astor will entertain the visiting colonial premiers at Cliveden next week.

Among the prominent Americans who are enjoying the jubilee festivities are Mr. De Witt Griswold, of the New York Chronicle, who, with his family, is staying at the Hotel Cecil and will witness the procession from the hotel's terrace; Mr. W. B. Grubb and wife, of New Jersey; John Shults, of New York, and George Raum, of California.

Colonel John Hay, United States ambassador in London, and his wife, Mrs. Hay, are staying at the Hotel Cecil. Rear Admiral J. N. Miller, Commander H. Emory, chief of Admiral Miller's staff, and Captain J. H. Smith, of the United States navy, are staying at the Hotel Cecil. The British naval commander at Portsmouth, and many other British and foreign admirals and commanders were present.

By command, this afternoon the queen received all the Indian officers, who were by Mr. Boucard, a former president of the republic.

Tonight, after a quiet family dinner, at which several sons and daughters of the queen were present, her majesty at 8 o'clock, from a window of the castle, to witness the military tattoo, in which 400 guardsmen, carrying naphtha torches, took part. The scene was a most impressive one, and the weather was very pleasant.

The soldiers saluted by raising their burning torches high in the air.

### Criticized for Attacking Consul Lee.

Havana, June 19.—La Lucha in a leading editorial, strongly condemns the attacks of the organ of the Spanish admiralty on Consul General Lee, which it says, are indiscreet, adding that such attacks made at a time when the government at Washington contemplates removing the consul general may induce the American government to retain him in his position. The authorities at Washington might remove General Lee of their own accord, but would not do so because of pressure brought to bear by the Spanish press. La Lucha further says the American government has already placed their full value upon General Lee's services, which fact is shown by the expression of opinion by persons in high positions at Washington in favor of the consul general, and that President McKinley will name, as did President Cleveland, a person for the post who is in his confidence.

### A Sensational Homicide.

Norfolk, Va., June 19.—A sensation was created in Portsmouth tonight by a murder in which William Boone, a Seaboard Air Line engineer, shot down James McAlpin, a well-known and highly connected young man at 10:45 o'clock on High street. No cause can be ascertained. Boone, who was arrested, says some one hit him with a black-jack and he shot three times, one ball entering McAlpin's brain, killing him almost instantly. The dead man belonged to one of the older families of the city. He has a brother who is a cadet engineer in the navy, stationed at Brooklyn, and another who was formerly in the auditor's office in Richmond.

## FUSIONISTS SORE

### OVER ATTACKS ON THEIR CONDUCT BY THE PRESS.

A Quaint Old Cemetery—The Fine Plant of the Agricultural College—Number of Students Too Small—Students Working on the Farm—An Unpublished Letter of General Bragg Attacking General Whit Ing—Falling off in Crime.

Messenger Bureau, Park Hotel, Raleigh, N. C., June 19.

What is known as the "old" or city cemetery here is one of the quaintest places of the kind in the state. A broad walk is the dividing line between the two races. Whites and blacks there sleep their last sleep. The cemetery was established in 1792. It was the sole one and was then outside the city. A cluster of rough granite monuments, or rather headstones, marks the place of burial of several persons of the English and Scotch workmen who came here to prepare the stone for the present capitol. On one of these, below the usual inscription, are these words: "He died a Flint." Were the "Flints" a society or were they obscure unbelievers? On another of these tombstones is the queerest name of all in the cemetery—Mrs. Jinling Cattenach. She was Scotch.

The republican and populist members of various state boards are very sore by reason of the newspaper attacks on them. They express their sentiments in no uncertain tones. The members of the present legislature are also exceedingly sore both by reason of that body's bad record in many respects, and also because of the use they know will be made in the 1898 campaign of its errors of omission and commission.

The Agricultural and Mechanical college has a fine plant. There is only one fault, the heating is deficient. The part of the plant will have to be improved. There are now the main building, mess hall, with dormitories above, four dormitories, engine and electric light house, mechanical department, horticultural building, barn and dairy. A hospital will next be built.

The actual number of students in attendance during the last term approximated 200. There is room for twice as many and they ought to be in attendance. There were over 600 at the South Carolina agricultural college, and it is said the one here is superior to it.

In the mechanical department there are on the ground floor four rooms. In the one for the freshmen wood working is taught and there are the work benches for thirty students. In the sophomore room wood turning is taught. In the room for the juniors are forges and the senior room is a machine shop.

The students work on the college farm, being paid 7 cents an hour therefor. Each day about a dozen are so employed, so as to lose only one day a week. In the class work, only one or two laborers have to be hired. The farm is in fine tilth. It is really, as any visitor will agree, a model.

All the students save three or four room in the college buildings and all get their meals in the mess hall. The college provides the food, in very good shape, too, and charges only \$8 for it. I asked the students if the fare was good, and they said yes.

The whole expenses of a county student for the term of nine and one-half months are only \$80, and of a pay student \$130, this including tuition and lodging. So it is the place for a poor boy. It is thoroughly democratic.

I asked several students why the attendance was not larger. They said that students who had been found deficient or who were lazy, went home and spread the news that the "A. & M." college was no good. To get at the real state of things, I was hired, it is a capital plan to talk with the students themselves. It was made plain that the studious young men like the Agricultural and Mechanical college very much. It deserves all the good opinion and all their effort.

There is extant a letter written in 1865 by General Braxton Bragg, which he handles General W. H. C. Whiting, of Fort Fisher fame, without gloves. This letter has never been published, but will be, no doubt.

The first six months of this year, nearly completed, are falling off in crime in this state, which is very noticeable. The fact was made clear several years ago, from the official returns to the attorney general, that the greater portion of what may be termed crimes are committed in that part of the state west of Raleigh. The annual returns continue to show this to be the case.

### The Davis Monument Association Intact.

Richmond, Va., June 19.—Concerning the question raised yesterday as to whether the Jefferson Davis Monument Association has "lived up to" the terms of its charter and has now any legal existence, ex-Judge George L. Christian, a leading lawyer of this city and for a long time president of the Richmond chamber of commerce, writes to one of the evening papers in which the question appeared, as follows:

"I am one of the incorporators and directors named in the charter and feel the deepest in the accomplishment of the purpose for which the association was organized, and as I conceive that the publication in your paper can only result in retarding the work of the association, already greatly delayed and embarrassed by the stringency of the times and other considerations, I have carefully examined the charter (Acts 1889-90, P. 357) and there is no such provision in it about annual meetings and the election of officers, as stated in your paper. The association has held frequent meetings, every year, since it was organized, and I believe that all of its proceedings have been as legal and as regularly conducted as those of any corporation of a similar character ever chartered under the laws of his or any other state.

Respectfully,

"GEORGE L. CHRISTIAN."

## THE CUBAN QUESTION.

Our Government Not Yet Decided Upon the Course to Pursue—To First Give Matter Thorough Study.

Washington, June 19.—It can be stated on the best authority that all publications purporting to outline the Cuban policy of President McKinley that have been made up to the present time have been in disregard of the fact that up to this moment the case of the United States government has not yet been made up, and that even in the discussions of the subject of our relations to Cuba that have taken place in the cabinet circle, the point has not yet been reached where it could be said that the executive had finally determined upon any certain plan of action. At the state department an authoritative denial is given of the statement published to London to the effect that General Woodford, the newly appointed United States minister to Spain, has been instructed to intimate to the Spanish authorities that if Spain refuses to grant freedom to Cuba she must be prepared to yield to force.

Mr. Calhoun, who was the president's special commissioner to Cuba, is still here in daily conference with Assistant Secretary Day upon the subject of our general relations to the Cuban question, as well as upon the Ruiz case in particular, and it is desired that General Woodford also be given an opportunity to confer with Mr. Calhoun. Therefore, in the course of the next three days the minister will come again to Washington from New York and begin a serious study of the history of the present insurrection from its very beginning. Of this, General Woodford, at present, knows little more than the average close reader of the newspapers and it is, of course, highly important that he should have in his possession all the information that is in the state department, besides that which Mr. Calhoun may be able to add to it. It is the intention of our government that the new minister shall carry with him when he goes the complete case of the United States. This necessarily will consume some time and it can be stated positively that there is no expectation that General Woodford will start for Madrid until the expiration of the thirty day period allowed by the state department to all United States ministers upon their appointment within which to study their instructions before going to their posts.

General Woodford's instructions, of course, from the peculiarities of the situation, will be much more complex than are usually given to an American minister. Not only will he be charged with all of the details of the Ruiz case, which in itself promises to present most formidable legal problems, but he will also be charged with all the evidence necessary to establish the loss of territory by United States citizens in Cuba from the continuance of the war, with such other data in support of the suggestion of our government that a prolongation of present conditions.

Upon this answer returned by the Spanish government to these representations by Mr. Woodford will depend the course to be followed by the United States. While perfectly willing to gather all information pertinent to this issue, and listen to all proper representations, the administration is firmly determined not to be unduly hurried in its treatment of the case, realizing that if it should permit itself to be carried away by temporary excitement mistakes of the gravest character might result, that would in the end weaken our position.

### Cubans Win a Desperate Battle.

Havana, June 19.—Fugitive soldiers from Fort Mogotes, five leagues from Santa Clara, report that the insurgents surprised the fort, wiped out all but a handful of the garrison and captured all the ammunition. The soldiers who bring the story claim to be the only survivors.

Gomez is reported making a demonstration against the Jacarao-Monon trocha.

There are actually 16,000 sick soldiers now in government hospitals and the authorities have been compelled to reopen the Regla sugar warehouse hospital. Putrid dysentery is making havoc among the troops in Santiago de Cuba.

Admiral Navarro, during his stay at Santiago de Cuba, was visited by the local authorities and by all the consuls except the American, who simply sent his card to the admiral.

### Maine Populists.

Lewiston, Me., June 19.—At a meeting of the Maine state populist committee at Auburn today all present were firmly of opinion in favor of a "middle-of-the-road" course. With one exception, the members of the committee heard from words of the same mind. Delegates were appointed to the "middle-of-the-road" populist conference at Nashville July 4th. Resolutions were adopted declaring that the late alliance with the silver democracy has proven a failure and should no longer be continued, and condemning in unqualified terms the "brutal treatment" accorded by the democratic party to the populists, and especially to "that national leader, Hon. Thomas E. Watson."